

11/30/2001 16:42 FAX

cc: Dana  
Sue  
Ann  
Penny

001

000000

GARY G. MILLER  
41ST DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives

1037 LONGWORTH HOB  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515  
(202)226-6962

FAX COVER SHEET

TO: EMILY DURACO

FROM: CONGRESSMAN GARY MILLER

FAX: \_\_\_\_\_

PAGES INCLUDING COVER: 4 DATE: 30 NOV 01

NOTE: FOR YOUR IMMEDIATE

REVIEW.

Gary Miller

IF THERE IS ANY PROBLEM WITH THIS TRANSMISSION, PLEASE CALL  
(202)225-3201

ASAP!  
Shared copies  
w/ Erika & David

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

November 28, 2001

The Honorable Elaine Chao  
The Secretary of Labor  
United States Department of Labor  
200 Constitution Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20210

Dear Madam Secretary:

The undersigned Members of the U.S. House of Representatives from the great State of California urge you to address the burgeoning problem of discrimination within apprenticeship training in our state. With our nation working to rebuild after September 11<sup>th</sup> and facing an economic recession, the short-sighted and discriminatory actions of the California Apprenticeship Council (CAC) run contrary to our constituents' efforts to increase job training, productivity and competition in the marketplace.

It has become abundantly clear that there is an obvious bias in the agenda being carried out by the California Apprenticeship Council and the California Department of Apprenticeship Standards. These agencies are repeatedly blocking implementation of new bona-fide apprenticeship training programs to the detriment of employees seeking apprenticeship opportunities in the State of California.

Actions taken by the CAC clearly run counter to the intent of the National Apprenticeship Act of 1937, commonly referred to as the Fitzgerald Act. Under the Act the Department of Labor is required to "*formulate and promote the furtherance of labor standards necessary to safeguard the welfare of apprentices and to cooperate with the States in promotion of such standards.*" It is our contention that the State of California and the CAC are not serving their Congressionally authorized purpose of promoting and furthering apprenticeship labor standards. To the contrary, they have only served to restrict and repress the growth of apprenticeship programs in the State of California.

The construction industry provides good, well paying jobs to over six million American workers every year. However, the industry is experiencing a critical shortage of skilled workers. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, to simply remain at the present level of workers the construction industry needs 250,000 new craft professionals per year to replace an aging and retiring work force. The State of California has an extreme shortage of qualified workers and that trend is expected to continue to worsen over the next several years.

Page 2

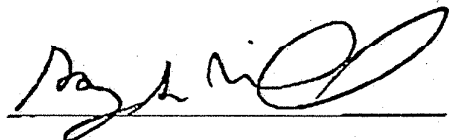
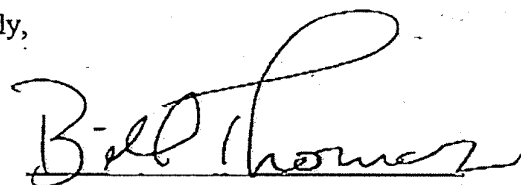
The Honorable Elaine Chao

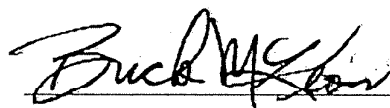
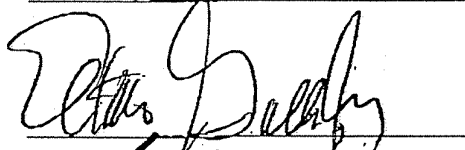
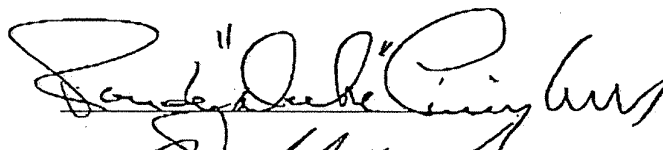
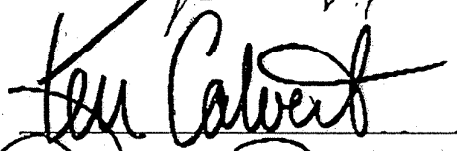
November 28, 2001

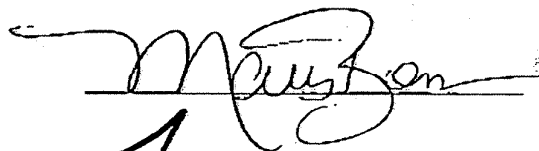
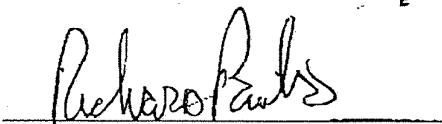
It is our belief that the key to attracting new workers and retaining current craft professionals is to provide high quality, flexible training that leads to a lifetime career opportunity in a lucrative field like construction. Unfortunately, Governor Gray Davis and the CAC have created a situation in California that is not conducive to expanded apprenticeship and career opportunities in construction.

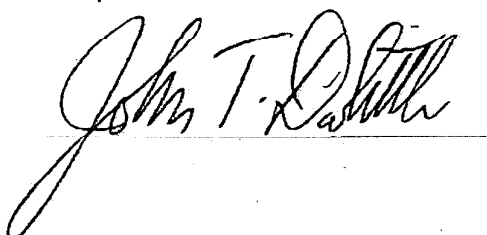
Since oversight of the California Apprenticeship Council falls under your jurisdiction, we urge you to review the actions taken by both the CAC and the State of California and hold them accountable for restricting the growth of apprenticeship training in California.

Sincerely,

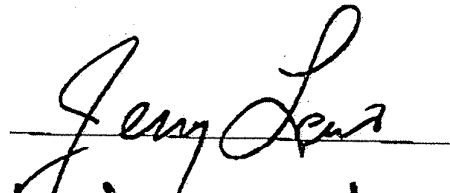
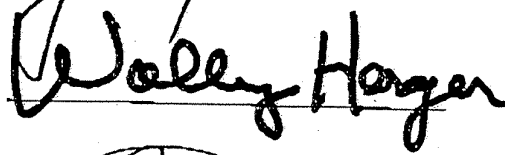



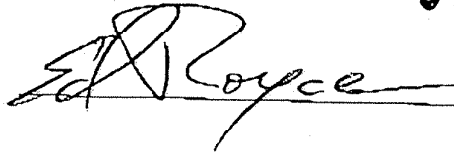






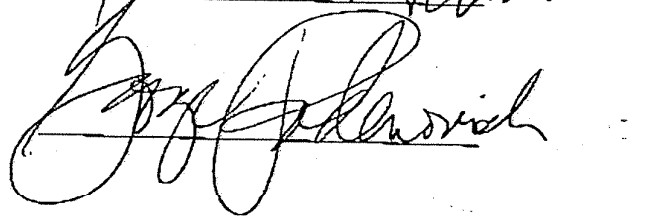







Page 3  
The Honorable Elaine Chao  
November 28, 2001



Cc: Assistant Secretary Emily DeRocco  
Assistant Secretary Kristine Iverson  
Assistant Secretary Chris Spear

Gary G. Miller

---

Bill Thomas

---

Dana Rohrabacher

---

Buck McKeon

---

Elton Gallegly

---

Randy "Duke" Cunningham

---

Ken Calvert

---

Darrell Issa

---

David Dreier

---

Mary Bono

---

Richard Pombo

---

Doug Ose

---

John T. Doolittle

---

Chris Cox

---

Jerry Lewis

---

Duncan Hunter

---

Wally Herger

---

George Radanovich

---

Ed Royce

---